



Commander's Report

Cdr John Karjala, P



This edition of *Tars & Terns* is the last for the present Bridge Year. The publication will continue for all members, but there will be a new Bridge (e.g., Commander, Executive Officer, Administrative Officer, Treasurer and Secretary) while the Squadron Educational Officer will remain the same. This gives me the opportunity to present a "Farewell" to the 2011-2012 Bridge and to all the members who worked so hard to make this year a success. I also offer a hardy "Hail" to the incoming Bridge.

Each year the outgoing Commander comments on the large number of people that keep this great organization functioning. I can do no different. When determining who will be receiving various awards, one recognizes the work that has been done and the time expended to accomplish Squadron duties. We had a good year for Merit Marks and, I hope, the membership will agree that awards are appropriately distributed. Individual members have contributed to our success in winning four Squadron awards and other members have supported a variety of Squadron activities and events. I look forward to thanking all our members.

I urge all Squadron members to attend our activities and functions and to get involved in Squadron and the District 5 activities. When you attend our social activities, educational classes, and meetings you will learn and your commitment of time will be well spent. All members and guests are invited to the events below and all are welcome!

Please start by attending our monthly meetings. The next is **7:00 PM** on Wednesday, **14 March 2012**. This one is called our "Annual Meeting," so everyone has made a special effort to assure it's a good one. We will have our "**Pizza Night**." All the free pizza you wish with refreshments. It is at BoatUS®, 880 South Picket Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. This is about two to three minutes off of the Beltway at Exit 173 to south Van Dorn Street (take a left at T- intersection and light) and then down Van Dorn turning left at the third light onto South Pickett Street. BoatUS has ample free lighted parking in the rear of the building. Entrance to the meeting room is at the rear of the building. Our guest speaker is David Gross from **UK-HALSEY SAILMAKERS ANNAPOLIS**. This is an opportunity to hear, learn, and ask questions of a pro. Some of the subjects he will address include: sail care, maintenance, usage, and construction (including materials). He will also discuss what to look for when purchasing a sail.

Our next social event is the Change of Watch and Founder's Day Luncheon from **11:00 am - 1:30 pm, 24 March 2012** at the Fairfax American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak Street, Fairfax, VA 22030. It's \$25.00 per person. For that sum, you get a good buffet lunch and the Commander's Locker will be open. That is always a good thing. A fine time will be had by all. We look forward to seeing you there. Uniform of the Day is Uniform A, with black tie/uncovered (no cap), blue blazer with gray slacks, or business suit.

The last training and social event we have on tap for March is our District 5's Spring Conference 2012, the D/5 Officer Training and Spring Conference on **30 March -1 April 2012** at the Princess Royale Oceanfront Hotel & Conference Center, 9100 Coastal Highway, Ocean City, MD 21842. NVSPS will have a hospitality suite and an exhibition. Last year, the Squadron won Best Hospitality Suite 2011. We make an effort to put everyone at ease. Stop by for appetizers and a beverage of your choice. The Commander's Locker will be open continuously Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We hope you join us for this fun event. NVSPS is donating a Wine & Spirits Basket for D5's Benefit Raffle. Please bring a donation to our Monthly Meeting on **14 March 12**. You can see the donation basket at the meeting.